

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Richard Hornbeck

*Booth School of Business
University of Chicago*



“Engines of Productivity Growth:
Railroads, Reallocation, and the
Rise of American Manufacturing”

Monday, April 17, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

This project analyzes productivity growth in American manufacturing from 1860 to 1900, decomposing productivity growth into gains in technical efficiency (counties becoming more productive) and gains in reallocative efficiency (more resources becoming allocated to counties that are more productive on the margin). We then turn to explore how railroad network expansion impacted these sources of productivity growth.



Richard Hornbeck is a professor of economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He is an applied micro-economist whose research focuses on the historical development of the American economy, related often to three themes: the importance of property rights and contracting failures; market integration and agglomeration spillovers; and connections between agriculture, technology, and the environment. Prior to joining Chicago Booth in 2015, Rick was a faculty member at Harvard University. He received a PhD in economics from MIT in 2009 and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Chicago in 2004 ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL and papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855-3151).